

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 17 and 18 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention. New claims 19 and 20 are added to afford applicants a varying scope of patent protection to which they are entitled, the dependent claims emphasizing additional features of various embodiments of the invention. By the present amendment all claims are now clearly patentability distinguishable and allowable over the art of record and the outstanding rejections of the claims are thereby overcome.

In particular, embodiments of the present invention accommodate situations in which image data to be received disappears from the initial source of the image data (for example, an external fax machine or an image reading unit of a Multi-Function Peripheral or MFP). This is in contrast to the prior art wherein all of the image data is preliminarily stored in an external network. To address the potential loss of data, embodiments of the present invention transmit the received image data to an external apparatus as a backup. With this structure, even if the image processing apparatus receives image data that is partially or entirely missing due to some equipment failure or other trouble in the apparatus, the apparatus can acquire the missing portion (or entirety) of the image data from the external apparatus. To further emphasize this feature, independent claim 1 is amended to recite that the acquired data image is transmitted to the external apparatus "so that the image data is stored in the storage apparatus [of the external apparatus] while the storage unit [of the image processing apparatus also] stores the acquired image data." Similar language has been included in independent claims 17 and 18 thereby further distinguishing all independent claims and the claims dependent therefrom over the art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application as amended and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of the claims are respectfully requested.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **325772034700**.

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